

I have been an unemployed human resources professional for a year and a half. Even after having applied for over 170 jobs, I am still very active in my job search.

These are not people sitting around cashing their checks. She is still very active in her job search.

I go to at least 2 networking events/meetings per week and I keep a positive attitude in spite of my situation. Yes, I have applied for jobs in other fields or professions which use similar and transferable skills. I get no response. I have worked with recruiters and head hunters, online networks, and have appealed to friends and family members to look for opportunities. I have worked full-time since I was 16 years old, even through college. At age 45 and as an educated professional with so much to offer an organization, I still want to work for many more years.

She has worked since she was 16. She is now 45. She has worked twice as long as almost the age of these pages who sit in front of us. She has worked for 29 years. She is not a deadbeat. She doesn't want to sit around and collect unemployment. She wants a job. As I said, there are five people pursuing every job out there.

Without unemployment benefits, my family would have lost our home by now. I am begging you to fight to extend unemployment benefits until more companies start hiring. Please don't let 15 million Americans have to worry about feeding their families this winter. Please urge your colleagues to pass an unemployment benefit extension before December 1.

December 1 is approaching. We still can't get our Republican colleagues—it is pretty unbelievable. We have been through this for the third time, I believe, in the last year or so where we have begged and cajoled and pleaded and asked and done whatever we can to get our colleagues to say yes, to not filibuster, to get our colleagues to say yes, to get the supermajority, the 60 votes we need to extend the unemployment benefits.

There is a lot of fear out there. Whether it is in Denver or Cleveland, whether it is in Trinidad or Mansfield, there is all kinds of anxiety and fear and anguish out there. We could do something in this body to lessen it for our fellow Americans.

I ask my colleagues to move forward in maintaining unemployment benefits for the millions of Americans for whom the Christmas season, the holiday season will not be very happy this year.

I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CAMPAIGN TO STOP BULLYING

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Over the last few months, our Nation has mourned the loss of several lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender teenagers driven to suicide because of hateful and ignorant bullying and harassment. These tragic circumstances brought families, friends, and concerned citizens together through vigils on public squares in communities all over this country and on college campuses throughout the Nation. Together, millions of fellow Americans have drawn attention to intolerance and violence that LGBT Americans face each day. Together, we can ensure all LGBT Americans that life will get better for them.

As a father, I cannot bear to imagine the unspeakable pain endured by the parents of those teenagers who tragically took their own lives. No parent should have to bury a child. No child should ever feel so hopeless and so forgotten and so alone and so isolated that suicide seems like their only escape. But the rash of highly publicized suicides of LGBT students not only highlights the national epidemic of bullying these students face, it also reminds us that we all as adults, as clergy, as educators, or as peers of these students—we all have a role to play in preventing discrimination.

Bullies target the vulnerable and subject them to cruelty through taunts in the classroom or on the Internet, through chants on the playing field or physical abuse in the neighborhood. Prejudices based on religion or race or disability or sexual orientation or gender or physical or intellectual differences too often translate into physical torment and isolation and abuse against others.

LGBT youth, in particular, are frequently targeted by bullies. Public surveys indicate that 80 percent of LGBT students report regular harassment by fellow students—a rate three times that of heterosexual teens, three times the rate of their heterosexual peers. Seventy-five percent of high school students routinely hear homophobic remarks in school, reinforcing stereotypes and prejudices. Without a safe space to speak openly with a caring adult or a like-minded peer, victims are left to question their self-worth.

On top of the self-doubt and insecurity that all young people feel already regardless of gender or race or sexual orientation—we have all been through that certainly as young teenagers and older teenagers, too, for that matter, but add to that the kind of insecurities that are put on them by bullying tactics, by so many people spouting homophobic remarks.

Too many young gay men and women, boys and girls, are forced into secrecy about who they are rather than affirming the person they should proudly be.

A brave young Ohioan named Nicholas sent me a letter detailing an attack by a schoolyard bully. Here is what Nicholas wrote:

On September 18th, 2009 I was attacked by a student at my school for being gay. This student beat me in the head with a hammer three times. He chased me down so he could get the last two hits. The student attacked me for being gay. I have no way of using this attack to promote gay rights, to promote gay equality, but you do. And you could do this for me. I need your help more than anything. No one deserves to go through what I went through.

My message to Nicholas and to all LGBT Americans is this: You are not alone. Life will get better. You can find the love and acceptance you deserve, and you will find the love and acceptance you deserve, free from fear and hate. You will realize your full potential every bit as much as anyone else because things are changing in this country.

There is no acceptable justification for the violence experienced by Nicholas or the physical and emotional mistreatment of LGBT students in our schools and in our communities. That is why the Senate must take crucial steps to ensure that schools are safe places for learning, safe places for students, and not breeding grounds for bullying.

First, we must pass the Safe Schools Improvement Act which would help schools implement LGBT-inclusive programming to combat bullying and harassment. Second, we must pass the Student Nondiscrimination Act which would bar schools which receive public money from implementing programs that discriminate based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

Legislation alone, of course, will not eradicate or put an end to bullying, but we also know what legislation did for women, for children, for civil rights. Attitudes change over time. Legislation helps accelerate that change. That is why those two pieces of legislation matter. They will be major steps toward ensuring safety and equal treatment for all students in our school systems.

Parents and teachers also have a special responsibility to help LGBT youth confront the bullying they face at school. They, too, should ensure that every student knows she is valued, knows he is valued, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

LGBT community centers or national organizations such as the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network are valuable resources for students, parents, and educators.

I remember several years ago an event where students sat together as part of a gay/straight alliance at a high school in western Cuyahoga County. There were 10 students at 2 different tables, 5 gay students, 5 straight students, all supporting one another, understanding each other and accepting their differences. They can still care about one another, and they can protect them, in many cases, from some of the bullying that might have befallen some of them.

To our own LGBT students who are either forced to live a lie or face hostility for simply living their lives, all

of you should know there are resources to help you in times of need. The Trevor Project is the leading national organization focused on crisis and suicide prevention among lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youth. For more information, if you are feeling alone, anyone watching today feeling alone, helpless, or in crisis, people can visit the Trevor Project's Web site, thetrevorproject.org, or they can call the hotline at 866-488-7386.

For anyone who is in suicidal crisis or in need of help, the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week by calling 1-800-273-TALK.

To Nick: I don't normally come to the floor and talk about a service like this. I think, though, when people feel alone, they don't always know there is help out there for them. Young people need to know that it is getting better, that life will get better for them, so it is important to share that information on the Senate floor.

To Nicholas: History is on your side. It will, in fact, get better. Workers fought for the right to organize, women fought for the right to vote, African Americans fought for equal justice, and now LGBT Americans of all backgrounds are fighting for equality.

It is up to us to join this fight. It is up to us to be on the side of people whose lives are a little bit more difficult, perhaps, than others' lives. It is that spirit of inclusion, it is the pursuit of the American dream, that will, in fact, make it better for these young people, and it will make it better for all Americans.

I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COIN MODERNIZATION, OVERSIGHT, AND CONTINUITY ACT OF 2010

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Banking Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6162 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will state the bill by title.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6162) to provide research and development authority for alternative coinage materials to the Secretary of Treasury, increase congressional oversight over coin production, and ensure the continuity of certain numismatic items.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 6162) was read the third time and passed.

AMERICAN EAGLE PALLADIUM BULLION COIN ACT OF 2010

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Banking Committee be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 6166 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The clerk will state the bill by title.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6166) to authorize the production of palladium bullion coins to provide affordable opportunities for investments in precious metals, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be read the third time and passed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to the bill be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 6166) was read the third time and passed.

COMMEMORATING THE 175TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BIRTH OF MARK TWAIN

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 690, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 690) commemorating the 175th anniversary of the birth of Mark Twain.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate, and that any statements related to the resolution be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 690) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 690

Whereas Mark Twain was born with the name Samuel Langhorne Clemens on November 30, 1835, in Florida, Missouri, the 6th child of John Marshall and Jane Lampton Clemens;

Whereas in 1839, the Clemens family moved to Hannibal, Missouri, the inspiration for the fictional town of St. Petersburg depicted in the novels "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" and "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn", where the Clemens family lived until 1853, including several years of residence at 206 Hill Street, known as the boyhood home of Mark Twain;

Whereas in 1848, Samuel Clemens left school to become a printer's apprentice at the Missouri Courier newspaper, his first in a series of occupations that include, most notably, author, but also, printer, typesetter, steamboat pilot, journalist, lecturer, publisher, editor, prospector, and political activist;

Whereas while working at the Virginia City newspaper, the Territorial Enterprise, Clemens first used the pen name "Mark Twain" in 1863;

Whereas with the publication of the short story "Jim Smiley and His Jumping Frog" in The Saturday Press in 1865, Mark Twain experienced his first significant success as an author;

Whereas in 1869, Twain's first book, "The Innocents Abroad", was published, detailing Twain's adventures through Europe and the Middle East;

Whereas Samuel Clemens, known for the love and affection he demonstrated for his wife and family and to whom the quote, "What is a home without a child?", is attributed, in 1870 married Olivia Langdon, with whom he had 4 children, Langdon, Olivia Susan, Clara Langdon, and Jane Lampton;

Whereas the book "Roughing It", part autobiography and part tall tale, chronicling Twain's adventures in the early American West and critiquing society's treatment of Chinese Americans, was published in 1872;

Whereas "The Gilded Age: A Tale of Today", a novel Twain wrote in collaboration with Charles Dudley Warner satirizing political corruption and greed in American life, was published in 1873;

Whereas Twain's novel, "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer", through which he sought "to pleasantly remind adults of what they once were themselves, and of how they felt and thought and talked, and what queer enterprises they sometimes engaged in", was published in 1876;

Whereas in 1881, Twain addressed class issues and attacked injustice and hypocrisy in English society with the publication of his novel, "The Prince and the Pauper";

Whereas in 1883, "Life on the Mississippi", Twain's book exploring the history and lore of the Mississippi River and detailing his time spent as a Mississippi River steamboat pilot, was published;

Whereas Mark Twain's most famous work, "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn", which attacked the institution of slavery, the failures of Reconstruction, and the continued mistreatment of African Americans in American society, and which is considered a masterpiece of American fiction and is widely known as one of the Great American Novels, was published in 1884;

Whereas Twain's powerful social critique, "A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court", was published in 1889;

Whereas "The Tragedy of Pudd'nhead Wilson", Twain's strongest critique of racism and the institution of slavery, was published in 1894;

Whereas on April 21, 1910, Samuel Clemens died at the age of 74; and